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La Habra Police Department Press Release

Two La Habra Women Responsible for Million Dollar Embezzlement

La Habra, CA – July 13, 2016: On July 29, 2015, the La Habra Police Department was contacted by a fraud investigator for Capita Public Limited Company, which is located in the United Kingdom. A Capita investigator told La Habra detectives that an ex-employee, based out of her residence in La Habra, had embezzled over one million dollars from the company.

The ex-employee was identified as Martha Escobar, 51 years old. Escobar was entrusted with preparing payroll for several employees. During the investigation, Escobar was found to have falsified payroll, expenses and taxation reports. This allowed Escobar to substantially inflate payroll payments to her account and that of her daughter, Andrea Escobar, 36 years old.

La Habra detectives worked closely with the Orange County District Attorney's Office Major Fraud Unit and prepared numerous search warrants on both women's bank accounts. The account information obtained through the warrants was then analyzed by forensic accountants. The accountants were able to determine that both Martha and Andrea Escobar had embezzled \$1,259,659.57 between January of 2012 and March of 2015.

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Detectives presented the case to the Orange County District Attorney's Office and were able to obtain warrants for the arrest of both Martha and Andrea Escobar. The charges included one count of Grand Theft, 39 counts of Falsifying Entries in Books and Records and six counts of Money Laundering.

On July 12, 2016, Martha Escobar was arrested by La Habra detectives at her home. Andrea Escobar has retained an attorney and will be making a court appearance in approximately two weeks.

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